Dear CWTAP Community,

Welcome to fall quarter! Fall is always an exciting time as we welcome many new students starting in our full-time campus program. We also welcome back our second year full-time students. This summer, we welcomed a new cohort starting in our Vancouver part-time program. This quarter our Everett and Hybrid students enter their sixth quarter—they are almost halfway through their program already.

We recently hired two new Field Instructors for CWTAP. In April, Gerry Charvat joined our team in Spokane/Cheney. Gerry supports the part-time Hybrid and full-time first year students. Gerry most recently worked in the Spokane Children's Administration office as the supervisor for the CFWS Native American Unit. Gerry is a graduate of Eastern and CWTAP.

In May, Shawnti Johnson joined the team in Everett. Shawnti supports the Everett part-time program students. Shawnti comes to us from the Everett Children’s Administration office where she most recently worked as a CFWS supervisor. Shawnti is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Social Work and is also a CWTAP graduate.

Please join us in welcoming Shawnti and Gerry to the team!

Sincerely,
Diana Patterson LeBlanc

Cathi Plummer Retires

CWTAP wishes Cathi Plummer well as she moves into retirement at the end of October. Cathi has been an outstanding support to CWTAP for the past six and a half years working as our statewide Program Coordinator based out of Everett. Please join us in wishing Cathi the very best in retirement. She will be missed!
Latisha Williams is a current CWTAP student at the Everett Part-Time Program working and doing her practicum at the Everett DCFS field office. The eldest child of 3 in a strong Navy family, Ms. Williams says that she was always the child asking “why?” in the family. She continues to be the one who challenges the status quo, asks the hard questions and expects the same compassionate curiosity from others as well. Ms. Williams above all, values integrity. “People should stand up for what is right, regardless of popular opinion” she says. She is open to helping others discover what they may have been blind to and enjoys seeing them grow when pushed out of their comfort zone, pushed to discover new ways of being and to expanded consciousness.

Ms. Williams has always had a gift of working with youth from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds. She has seen herself as an advocate for others as far back as a high school freshman mentoring other students, through college, and outreach work with Cocoon House where she developed the Cocoon Aftercare Program to help youth more successfully transition into the adult world.

Ms. Williams has passion for social justice for children of color, working towards equal and equitable opportunities to change lives. She believes that as social workers, we must exercise cultural humility and to become culturally aware of how populations are affected by difference in experiences of interactions with systems. Ms. Williams will continue her passionate work at Children’s Administration in Everett. She sees herself as an advocate for families and believes that everyone should serve families equitably regardless of their situation.

As a result of her cursory interactions with the public child welfare system through her outreach work, she has the need to understand public child welfare on a bigger scale and this means from within the system. Public Child Welfare gives the opportunity to work with the entire families; to help families develop and build upon strengths and make the changes they never thought could be done. Ms. Williams does not take her role as a social worker lightly and is highly impacted by the power social workers have to effect families; social workers have the “ability to rock families’ worlds for the rest of their lives.” She believes that social workers must be aware of their impact and biases in determining what is in the best interests of children to ensure the weight of power and privilege is balanced and based on mutual respect of the client and families.

To keep “sane”, especially during graduate school and centered in the true nature of social work and social justice work, Ms. Williams and her family make it a point to have a sit-down dinner together each week. She is rejuvenated through work with Project Girl Mentoring Program (project-girl.com), and keeps an ear to the ground through continued involvement with the outreach program at Cocoon.

Latisha truly is a visionary for social work and sees herself as a conduit to create change on a societal scale. EWU MSW program and CWTAP are just the beginning for her. She is one to watch in the years to come.

Helpful Links

Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence: www.allianceforchildwelfare.org
National Association of Social Workers: www.naswdc.org
Child Welfare League of America: www.cwla.org
Children’s Defense Fund: www.childrensdefense.org
Casey Family Programs: www.casey.org
National Resource Center for Child Protective Services: www.nrccps.org
Site News

Cheney: The Cheney full-time 1st year program starts this fall with nine new CWTAP students eager to learn about child welfare. The full-time 2nd year students continue this fall with their advanced practicum-welcome back!

Spokane Hybrid: Students begin their 2nd quarter of Foundation Practicum fall quarter.

Everett: Students begin their 2nd quarter of Foundation Practicum fall quarter.

Vancouver: The Vancouver MSW program started summer quarter with nine new CWTAP students.

Alumni Spotlight

Lori Blake is a CWTAP graduate of EWU’s 2006 Advanced Standing MSW program and has been with Children’s Administration for 10 years. She has worked in a variety of roles during her tenure with CA including CPS investigator, CFWS social worker, CPS supervisor and now Program Consultant. She was the gracious recipient of the 2014 Rosie Oreskovich Award and is an excellent example of how CWTAP develops outstanding child welfare professionals.

Lori grew up in Port Angeles, WA and began her post-secondary education at Peninsula Community College. She spent several summers working with the Olympic National Park’s anthropologist, transcribing oral histories from the regional Tribes. She recalls this time with great fondness and reports that the experience helped shape who she is today. Lori began to realize her passion for social work while working at a specialized childcare center on the PCC campus. Lori moved to Spokane to pursue her BSW and began working at a local Head Start. She became so invested in the Head Start program that she put her BSW on hold for several years but later returned to school and obtained her BSW in 2005. She was able to do a practicum for Children’s Administration as part of her undergraduate program and began working in Afterhours.

Upon graduation Lori entered the Advanced Standing MSW program and was accepted into CWTAP and completed her practicum in the Spokane Office. In 2006 she was hired full time as a CPS investigator and transferred to CFWS in 2008. In July of 2013 she became an Investigations Supervisor, which she held until June of 2015 when she was selected as the Region 1 North Quality Practice Specialist. This is a new position for Region 1, which reports directly to the Deputy Regional Administrator. Lori works closely with the Alliance providing ongoing support, coaching and training to line staff and supervisors. She is involved in many committees and provides case consultation for the Central Review Team and on child fatalities.

Lori remains passionate in her career in child welfare. She credits this with a good balance of priorities in her professional and personal life. She is proud to say that she has been married for 21 years and she and her husband love to travel. Her advice for both new and seasoned workers, “schedule your leave in advance. Half of the joy is in planning for something! Use time away to rejuvenate and keep yourself fresh in your career.”
## CWTAP FACULTY & STAFF CONTACTS

### EVERETT
Diana Patterson LeBlanc  
**Director**  
dleblanc@cwu.edu  
425.405.1624

Cathie Plummer  
**Statewide Program Coordinator**  
cplummer@ewu.edu  
425.405.1628

Shawnti Johnson  
**Field Instructor**  
sjohnson42@cwu.edu  
360.651.6915

### CHENEY/SPOKANE
Debbie Charron  
**Program Coordinator**  
dcharron19@cwu.edu  
509.363.3346

Gerry Charvat  
**Field Instructor**  
gcharvat@cwu.edu  
509.363.4629

Brenda Wallace  
**Fiscal Specialist**  
bwallace@cwu.edu  
509.359.4265

### VANCOUVER
Patti Kirsch Daggett  
**Program Coordinator**  
pdaggett@clark.edu  
360.992.2081

### EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
208 Senior Hall  
Cheney, WA 99004  
Ph: 425.405.1624  
Fax: 425.405.1601

Please submit suggestions to:  
dleblanc@cwu.edu.

Contributors to this issue:  
Shawnti Johnson, Gerry Charvat,  
Cathi Plummer, and Diana  
Patterson LeBlanc.